

efforts of the innovators of this world and organizations such as the March of Dimes that make this occasion possible. The people of Virginia thank you, the people of the United States thank you, and most importantly the world thanks you.

#### TRIBUTE TO BEN H. BELL III

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, Members of Congress, it is not often we have an opportunity to recognize a senior executive in the United States Government as a leader, loyal soldier and a patriot. Ben H. Bell III epitomizes these traits after dedicating his adult life to serving this great country in several impressive capacities. Ben protected and defended our Nation during his 21 years as an officer and leader in the Marine Corps. He safeguarded our borders for 9 years, holding his last position as Assistant Commissioner for Intelligence with the Department of Immigration and Naturalization Services. For the next 2 years, Ben helped design the Foreign Terrorism Tracking Task Force just after 9/11 under Presidential directive and direction from the Attorney General.

Soon after, Secretary Mineta and Deputy Secretary ADM James Loy recruited Mr. Bell to establish and lead this Nation's first Office of National Risk Assessment, ONRA. This congressionally mandated office and its mission define our Nation's newly emerging need to manage and mitigate extreme risk for the protection of our homeland from terrorism.

It is through great dedication, unconditional loyalty, leadership, and passion that Ben H. Bell III has protected and defended our way of life every day without ever giving it a second thought.

On behalf of my colleagues in Congress and myself, we thank you, congratulate you, and salute you on such an accomplished and dynamic career.

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL WILLIAM GROVES

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional officer in the United States Air Force, an individual that a great many of us have come to know personally over the past few years—Colonel William “Bill” Groves. Colonel Groves, who currently serves in the office of Air Force Legislative Liaison, will retire after 21 years of active duty Air Force service. During his time in Washington, and especially with regard to his work here on Capitol Hill, Colonel Groves epitomized Air Force core values of integrity, selfless service and excellence in the many missions the Air Force performs in support of our national security. Many Members and staff have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with him on a variety of Air Force issues and came to deeply appreciate his character and many talents. Today it is my privilege to recognize some of Colonel Groves’

many accomplishments, and to commend his superb service he provided the Air Force, the Congress and our Nation.

Colonel Groves entered the Air Force by Direct Appointment in 1983 with a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Akron School of Law. During his 21-year career, he served three tours as a Staff Judge Advocate, with assignments at the 6th Air Refueling Wing, the Air Force Office of Scientific Research, and the Aerospace Guidance and Metrology Center. In 1990, he completed a Masters of Law program in Government Procurement at George Washington University, in Washington, DC. He has completed two overseas tours in Germany and was deployed in 1994 as the Legal Advisor for the Combined Air Operations Center, Vicenza, Italy, during Operations DENY FLIGHT and PROVIDE PROMISE. Just prior to his current assignment, he served as Assistant General Counsel for Procurement, Missile Defense Agency here in Washington, D.C.

In 2001, Colonel Groves was selected as Chief, Programs and Policy Branch for the Air Force Directorate of Legislative Liaison. During this period, Colonel Groves led 14 liaison personnel responsible for all Air Force interactions with the Armed Services Committees on personnel issues, readiness, depot maintenance, environmental compliance, airspace and range operations, force structure, base closure, health care, inspector general matters, military construction, and acquisition policies. Additionally, he directed the process used for USAF activities worldwide to submit legislative proposals to Congress. In his years of working with the Congress, Colonel Groves provided a clear and credible voice for the Air Force while representing its many programs on the Hill, consistently providing accurate, concise and timely information. His integrity, professionalism, and expertise enabled him to develop and maintain an exceptional rapport between the Air Force and the Congress. The key to his success, I believe, was his deep understanding of congressional processes and priorities and his unflinching advocacy of the programs essential to the Air Force and to our Nation. I am greatly appreciative of Colonel Groves’ 21-year service to his Nation and offer my sincere wishes for a happy and prosperous retirement. On behalf of the Congress and the country, I thank Colonel Groves and his wife Joanne for the commitment and sacrifices that they have made throughout his honorable military career. I know I speak for all of my colleagues in expressing my heartfelt appreciation to Colonel Groves for a job well done.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### NATIONAL PRIMARY IMMUNE DEFICIENCY DISEASES AWARENESS WEEK

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today in support of National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. The national awareness week took place the week of April 19th. Primary immune deficiency diseases PIDD, are genetic disorders in which part of the body's immune system is missing or does not function properly. The World Health Organization recognizes more than 150 primary immune diseases which affect as many as 50,000 people in the United States. Fortunately, 7 percent of PIDD patients are able to maintain their health through regular infusions of a plasma product known as intravenous immunoglobulin. IGIV helps bolster the immune system and provides critical protection against infection and disease.

The Immune Deficiency Foundation, which is the Nation's leading organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for PIDD patients is located in Towson, MD. The foundation was founded in 1980 by parents of primary immune deficient children and their physicians. At that time, there were few treatments for many primary immune deficiency diseases, and the treatments that were available were painful and not very effective. There were no educational materials for patients, no public advocacy initiatives, and little research was being done. Over the past 24 years, the foundation has made tremendous strides.

Recently, the foundation entered into a historic research partnership with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health. The establishment of the “US Immunodeficiency Network” represents the most significant advancement in primary immune deficiency research in our Nation's history. Despite the recent progress in PIDD research, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms in a patient and a definitive diagnosis of PIDD is nine and a half years. In the interim, those afflicted may suffer repeated and serious infections and possibly irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical that we raise awareness about these illnesses within the general public and the health care community.

I commend the Immune Deficiency Foundation for its leadership in this area and I am proud that I was able to join them in recognizing the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. I encourage my colleagues to help improve the quality of life for PIDD patients and their families.●